

I have learned today with deep regret of the passing of China's great leader, Chairman Mao Tse-tung. He made an unrivalled contribution to the creation of modern China and was one of the truly great figures of our times.

China stood up and assumed its rightful place in the world under Chairman Mao's guidance, and as part of this process, Canada and the People's Republic of China established relations six years ago. Since then contacts between our two countries have grown rapidly while the mutual understanding and sympathy between our peoples have steadily strengthened. Let me assure you of our strong resolve to carry on this process of developing friendly and enduring ties on the foundation built since 1970.

Mao Tse-tung's memory is imperishable and will doubtless act as a profound inspiration to the people and leaders of China in dealing with the challenges of the future. At this moment of loss, I would be grateful if you would convey my personal condolences to Chairman Mao's colleagues and relatives, as well as to the people of China.

Allan J. MacEachen.